

Message Text

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ACTION PM-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 L-03 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00

RSC-01 ACDA-19 TRSE-00 EB-11 EA-11 DRC-01 /089 W

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FM AMEMBASSY BONN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1895

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PARIS

DOD WASHDC

COMDT COAST GUARD WASHDC

NAVSHIPSYSKOM CODE 08 WASHDC

AEC GERMANTOWN

C O N F I D E N T I A L BONN 06282

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PBOR, MCAP, TECH, ETRN, GW, JA, UK

SUBJECT: RATIFICATION OF 1962 BRUSSELS CONVENTION ON
NUCLEAR SHIP LIABILITY

REF: A) STATE 72788, B) TOKYO 4824

1. GANTEN (FRG MINISTRY OF JUSTICE) AND DELAS (MINISTRY OF RESEARCH AND TECHNOLOGY) TOLD US APRIL 19 THAT ALTHOUGH DRAFT LEGISLATION COVERING THE RATIFICATION AND IMPLEMENTATION OF THE BRUSSELS CONVENTION ON NUCLEAR SHIP LIABILITY WILL BE SUBMITTED TO THE CABINET IN EARLY MAY, THE FRG RATIFICATION PROCESS WOULD NOT RPT NOT BE COMPLETED BEFORE THE END OF THIS YEAR OR EARLY 1975. IN THE COURSE OF DISCUSSION DURING WHICH EMBOFF PRESENTED US CONCERNS ALONG LINES REF A, THEY NOTED THAT THE FRG WOULD WELCOME ANY PROPOSALS OR SUGGESTIONS WHICH THE US DEVELOPS, AIMED AT PROTECTING OUR DEFENSE INTERESTS. FRG WOULD, THEY SAID, BE PREPARED TO CONSULT
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IN DETAIL ON THE PROBLEM AS SOON AS THEY RECEIVE THE US

IDEAS. IN RESPONSE TO OUR INQUIRY THEY SAID THAT EVEN
THOUGH THE CABINET WILL RECEIVE THE DRAFT LEGISLATION
IN THE NEXT FEW WEEKS THERE SHOULD BE NO SERIOUS
PROBLEMS IN AMENDING OR CHANGING IT TO BRING IT MORE IN
LINE WITH OUR NEEDS IN THE MONTHS AHEAD. IN THIS REGARD,
THEY ALSO OBSERVED THAT IT WOULD BE USEFUL TO LEARN
WHETHER THE US IS PREPARED TO MOVE AHEAD FAIRLY SOON
TOWARD RATIFICATION. AN ASSURANCE ALONG THIS LINE
WOULD EASE THEIR PROBLEMS BOTH WITH RESPECT TO CHANG-
ING THE DRAFT LEGISLATION AND ASSURING EASY RATIFICA-
TION IN THE BUNDESTAG.

2. RE THE QUESTION OF A NUCLEAR CONTAINER SHIP (REF B)
THEY SAID THAT NO SHIP IS NOW BEING BUILT AS A JOINT
FRG/JAPANESE VENTURE. THE MATTER IS STILL UNDER
CONSIDERATION AND THEY DID NOT KNOW WHETHR THE FRG
WOULD EVENTUALLY DECIDE TO GO AHEAD ON JOINT
CONSTRUCTION.
HILLENBRAND

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Message Attributes

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